



Virginia Cooperative Extension

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20 Quick Tips for your Home & Garden: Spring 2016

Contributed by Chesterfield Master Gardeners

March 2016 Tips

1. Now is a great time to plant cool-hardy vegetable crops that mature quickly. Good choices include turnips, radishes, and spring onions. Find what else you can plant http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-331/426-331_pdf.pdf
2. Mid to end of March is a great time to prune Crape myrtles but please don't be guilty of "crape murder." Find out how to prune like the pro's do here <https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-451/430-451.html>
3. Curious what else you can prune in March? Shrubs include arborvitae, roses and many more listed online here <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-462/430-462.html>
4. When the [forsythia bloom](#), you can apply a pre-emergent herbicide to your lawn to help prevent any summer weeds. Follow the label – most products need at least ¼ inch water within 48 hours of application.
5. Want a beautiful & healthy lawn in 2016? Sign up for our Grassroots program by clicking <http://bit.ly/2016GrassRoots>

April 2016 Tips

6. Want to stay on top of pesky pests in 2016? Check our growing degree days online bit.ly/GrowingDegreeDays
7. Once all danger of frost has passed (April 11-20), you can transplant tender vegetables, such as tomatoes and peppers. Before planting, harden-off by placing outdoors in a sheltered area for a few days. Cover, if late frost.
8. Do not prune spring-flowering shrubs until the last flower fades (but before new buds set) IE: azalea and rhododendron
9. Divide herbaceous perennials, clumps of bulbs, and ornamental grasses if the garden looks too crowded, or if light conditions have changed and blooms are fewer. Replant or give away!
10. Want to divide perennials and do not know where to begin? Find out at <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/426/426-203/426-203.html>

May 2016 Tips

11. Check your plants for any diseases or insects; bring bugs and diseased plants to our [Master Gardener Help Desk](#) for FREE diagnosis. Find out more at bit.ly/AskChesterfieldMG
12. Start fertilizing warm season lawns such as Zoysia and Bermudagrass. Most of our lawns in Chesterfield are cool season lawns: fescues, ryegrasses, or bluegrasses. Fertilizing cool season lawns now can stress and predispose them to fungal infections such as brown patch later this summer, and can increase frequency of mowing.
13. Get ready for hurricane season. Check trees for damaged or weak branches and prune as needed. Call 804-751-4401 to get our certified arborist list or our tree/shrub specific Pruning Calendars.
14. Ensure that your lawn and garden receives 1 inch of water per week. Set out an empty tuna can to measure the amount of rainfall, and water early in the morning and deeply.
15. Stake any tall plants to help prevent damage.

June 2016 Tips

16. Join us on Saturday, June 18th at [Bumblebee Jamboree](#) - a FREE and fun family day celebrating National Pollinator Week. Be sure to check out the butterfly tent, VCU bug lab, and a variety of pollinator craft activities. bit.ly/BBJam2016
17. Harvest your vegetables as soon as they are ripe for the freshest taste, to prolong production, and to avoid pest issues. Beans, peas, squash, cucumbers, and okra are often ready.
18. Remove any dead/finished vegetable plants from your garden by bagging and disposing; plant new crops in their place.
19. Plant annuals that can take the full sun during hot summer months, including celosia, portulaca, vinca, and some coleus.
20. Some insects in the garden are beneficial. Be sure to properly identify insects as pests, and to check with your local extension office before treating,